

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method, comprising:
2 automatically configuring a server so that the server is able to
3 communicate with a database to authenticate a user; and
4 operating the server.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein automatically configuring the server
2 comprises:
3 searching for a character string in a plurality of objects located in a
4 database;
5 receiving a selection of an object from a subset of objects found to contain
6 the character string;
7 retrieving the object;
8 receiving a selection of the attribute name associated with the character
9 string; and
10 storing the attribute name in a configuration file in the server.
- 1 3. The method of claim 2, wherein the character string is a user ID.
- 1 4. The method of claim 3, wherein retrieving the object further comprises
2 receiving as input a password corresponding to the user ID.

1 5. The method of claim 2, wherein the attribute name corresponding to each
2 group ID in the object is selected and stored in a configuration file in the server.

1 6. The method of claim 5, wherein if a non-parental group object is found to
2 contain the user ID, the server retrieves the non-parental group object, receives a
3 selection of the attribute names associated with attributes utilized to identify the
4 non-parental group, and stores the attribute names in a configuration file in the
5 server.

1 7. The method of claim 2, wherein the server guesses which attributes to
2 select once the object from the subset of objects has been retrieved.

1 8. The method of claim 6, wherein the attributes stored in the configuration
2 file are checked for correctness.

1 9. The method of claim 9, wherein the server is a network cache.

1 10. A method for automatically configuring a network cache, the method
2 comprising:

3 receiving as input from a user interface a user ID of a user object located in
4 a database;

5 querying the database for the user ID;

6 outputting to the user interface objects having the user ID;

7 receiving a selection of the user object to associate with the user ID;

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8         retrieving the user object;
9
10        outputting to the user interface attributes of the user object ;
11
12        receiving a selection of an attribute name associated with the user ID
13        within the user object;
14
15        storing the attribute name associated with the user ID in a configuration
16        file in the network cache; receiving a selection of the attribute names associated
17        with one or more group ID's within the user object;
18
19        storing the attribute names associated with the one or more group ID's in
20        a configuration file in the network cache;
21
22        receiving a selection of an object other than the user object having the user
23        ID;
24
25        retrieving the object;
26
27        receiving a selection of the attribute names associated with the attributes
28        utilized to identify the non-parent group; and
29
30        storing the attribute names in a configuration file in the network cache.

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1 11. The method of claim 10, wherein retrieving the user object further
2 comprises receiving as input a password corresponding to the user ID.

1 12. A machine-readable medium having sequences of instructions stored
2 therein which, when executed by a processor cause the processor to perform a
3 process comprising:

4 automatically configuring a network cache so that the network cache is
 5 able to communicate with a database to authenticate a user; and
 6 operating the network cache.

1 13. A device, comprising:
 2 a network cache; and
 3 a user interface to allow an operator to enter a character string known by
 4 the operator to be within a user object located in a database such that the
 5 character string is used to automatically configure the network cache so that the
 6 network cache is able to communicate with a database to authenticate a user.

1 14. The device of claim 13, wherein automatically configuring a network
 2 cache comprises:
 3 searching for a character string in a plurality of objects located in a
 4 database;
 5 selecting an object from a subset of objects found to contain the character
 6 string;
 7 retrieving the object;
 8 receiving a selection of the attribute name associated with the character
 9 string in the object; and
 10 storing the attribute name in a configuration file in the network cache.

1 15. The device of claim 14, wherein the character string is a user ID.

1 16. The device of claim 15, wherein retrieving the object further comprises
2 receiving as input a password corresponding to the user ID.

1 17. The device of claim 14, wherein the attribute name corresponding to each
2 group ID in the object is selected and stored in a configuration file in the network
3 cache.

1 18. The device of claim 17, wherein if a non-parental group object is found to
2 have the user ID, the network cache retrieves the non-parental group object,
3 receives a selection of the attribute names associated with the attributes utilized
4 to identify the non-parental group, and stores the attribute names in a
5 configuration file in the network cache.

1 19. The device of claim 14, wherein the network cache guesses which
2 attributes to select once the object from the subset of objects has been retrieved.

1 20. The device of claim 18, wherein the attributes stored in the configuration
2 file are checked for correctness.

1 21. A device for automatically configuring a network cache, the device
2 comprising:
3 means for receiving as input from a user interface a user ID known by an
4 operator to be within a user object located in a database;
5 means for querying the database for the user ID;

- 6 means for outputting to the user interface objects having the user ID;
- 7 means for receiving a selection of the user object ;
- 8 means for retrieving the user object;
- 9 means for outputting to the user interface attributes of the user object;
- 10 means for receiving a selection of an attribute name associated with the
- 11 user ID within the user object;
- 12 means for receiving a selection of the attribute name associated with one
- 13 or more group ID's within the user object;
- 14 means for receiving a selection of an object other than the user object
- 15 having the user ID;
- 16 means for retrieving the object;
- 17 means for receiving a selection of the attribute names associated with the
- 18 attributes utilized to identify the non-parent group; and
- 19 means for storing each attribute name when each attribute name is
- 20 selected.

- 1 22. A method, comprising:
- 2 automatically configuring a network cache by searching for a character
- 3 string in a plurality of objects located in a database;
- 4 receiving a selection of an object from a subset of objects having the
- 5 character string;

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6         receiving a selection of an attribute name associated with the character
7         string in the object; and
8         storing the attribute name in a configuration file in the network cache.

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1 23. The method of claim 22, wherein the character string is a user ID.

1 24. The method of claim 23, wherein the attribute name corresponding to each
2 group ID in the object is received as a selection and stored in a configuration file
3 in the network cache.

1 25. The method of claim 24, wherein if a non-parental group object is found to
2 have the user ID, the method further comprises:

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3      retrieving the non-parental group object;
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4 receiving a selection of the attribute names associated with attributes

5 utilized to identify the non-parental group; and

6 storing the attribute names in a configuration file in the network cache.

1 26. A processing device comprising:

2 a processor; and

3 a storage facility coupled to the processor and storing instructions which,

4 when executed by the processor, cause the processing system to perform a

5 process comprising:

6 automatically configuring a network cache by searching for a character
7 string in a plurality of objects located in a database;
8 receiving a selection of an object from a subset of objects having the
9 character string;
10 receiving a selection of an attribute name associated with the character
11 string in the object; and
12 storing the attribute name on the network cache.

1 27. The device of claim 26, wherein the character string is a user ID.

1 28. The device of claim 27, wherein the attribute name corresponding to each
2 group ID is received as a selection and stored in a configuration file in the
3 network cache.

1 29. The device of claim 28, wherein if a non-parental group object is found to
2 have the user ID, the method further comprises:
3 retrieving the non-parental group object;
4 receiving a selection of the attribute names associated with attributes
5 utilized to identify the non-parental group; and
6 storing the attribute names in a configuration file in the network cache.